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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF PORTLAND

FOR THE YEAR 1937.



BY

J. D. DEAR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1937 on the health and sanitary circumstances of this district. The report follows the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 1650. Comments are made on various subjects throughout the report under the appropriate headings so that it is unnecessary to enter into detail in this introduction.

An increase in the birth rate and decrease in the death rate can be taken as signs of economic improvement and an absence of conditions highly prejudicial to health. At the same time the exceedingly damp conditions which prevail in a large proportion of the houses in the district must be viewed with uneasiness. Such a state of affairs is inimical with the optimum standards of health and is probably productive of distress and suffering, though without obvious effect upon vital statistics. The unusually exposed position of Portland calls for very special care in choice of materials and methods in housing construction.

Very little was done with regard to re-housing overcrowded families on account of the work already in hand for re-housing those from condemned dwellings. The abatement of overcrowding thus remains an urgent matter.

Though higher than the previous year—a year of exceptionally low incidence—the occurrence of notifiable infectious disease was at no time alarming.

The grave dangers associated with the Milk sold for consumption in the district are commented upon in the appropriate section of the report.

Supervision over the Water Supply has been maintained. The supply has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality, though some difficulty has been experienced in avoiding an unp'essant taste from the chlorination which is employed. Waters which contain very little organic matter are more liable to taste difficulties than those which contain it in greater amount.

I am grateful to have this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of this Council for their very helpful consideration and courtesy to me since my appointment as Medical Officer of Health. I am also happy to be able to place on record my deep appreciation of the gracious manner in which I was initiated into my duties by your previous Medical Officer, Dr. M. J. Saunders, and for the continued help I have received from him. To your Sanitary Inspector and to my colleagues in the other Departments of your Council affairs I wish to tender thanks for their ever-ready assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. D. DEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The area of the district (land and inland water) is 2,905 acres.

Population. The corrected Census figure for 1931 was 12,019, comprising 7,429 males and 4,590 females, which shewed a decrease of 412 persons, since the census of 1921, or a percentage decrease of 3'3.

The inclusion in the Census figure of the Naval, Military, and Borstal populations, as well as other non-private families, accounts for the preponderance of males over females as shewn. It has been estimated that the population in private families amounted to 8,805.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population for Mid-year 1937 is 11,550.

As from the 1st January, 1932, the Registrar-General has decided to discontinue the exclusion of deaths of non-civilians from local statistics which became necessary on the outbreak of war in 1914, and to revert to the pre-war practice of assigning these deaths in accordance with the general rules governing the statistical transfer of deaths occurring away from the area of usual residence. For this purpose single officers and men will be considered as resident where stationed, and this rule will also apply to married officers and men, unless stated to have had a private residence. In view of this decision no separate estimates of local civilian populations are included in the annual vital statistics, and the above figure of 11,550 is to be used for the calculation of both birth and death rates.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Book, 2164 exclusive of Government Property.

Rateable Value : £53,473.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £211.

Social Conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment.

Portland is essentially a working-class district. The chief industry is stone-quarrying and the preparation of stone for building purposes. The stone worked is the well-known oolitic limestone named after the locality. The dust particles produced in the working of this stone are of too coarse a nature to remain suspended in air. No case of pulmonary disease traceable to employment in connection with stone has come to light during the year.

According to the Census of 1931 the average size of private family consisted of 3·57 persons, as compared with 4·04 in 1921. The average number of rooms per occupied dwelling was 5·46, but the average number of rooms per dwelling actually occupied was 4·69.

The average number of persons per room was 0·76, compared with 0·70 for the whole County, but the most disturbing feature revealed by the Census concerns the population in private families living under overcrowded conditions, that is, more than two persons per room. In 1921 the figure was 294 or 3·20 per cent, but in 1931 it had risen to 335 or 3·80 per cent. This percentage of the population living under overcrowded conditions was the highest of any area in the County, whose average was 2·24.

Unemployment.

For the following particulars regarding unemployment in the district during 1937 I am indebted to the Officer in charge of the Portland Employment Office.

		Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.
Insured Population	...	2,333	186	123	98
Wholly unemployed	...	170	16	23	28
Temporarily unemployed	...	454	18	—	—
Wholly unemployed (Stone Trades)		41	—	—	—
Temporarily unemployed	,,	454	18	—	—
Unemployed Building Trades					
(other than stone)	...	25	2	—	—
Hotel and Catering Trades	...	—	—	10	8
Seasonal Shop Assistants	...	—	—	10	10

The figures represent the average numbers unemployed each week during the year and compare favourably with those of 1936.

The Temporarily unemployed referred to above represent Quarrymen working, in the main, three days per week.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	167	87	80	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population =14'9.
	Illegitimate	6	5	1	
Still Births	...	6	3	3	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)=33'5.
Deaths	...	106	55	51	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population =9'2.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :—

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30.	Other puerperal causes	Nil.	Nil.
Total	...	Nil.	Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	63'6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	65'9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil.

The England and Wales (Smaller Towns) rates for 1937 were as follows :—

Birth Rate, 15'3. Death Rate, 11'9. Infant Mortality, 55'0.

The following table, showing the various causes of death, is compiled from the list supplied by the Registrar-General :—

Cause of Death				M.	F.	Total
Whooping Cough	...	...		—	2	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1	4	5
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...			3	3	6
Other Tuberculosis	...	...		—	1	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—	1
G.P.I. Tabes Is.	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	5	7	12
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2	7	9
Heart Disease	...	...	...	19	11	30
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	2	3
Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
Liver diseases (other than Cirrhosis)	...			—	1	1
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	2	—	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...		...	2	1	3
Congenital debility, Premature births, etc.				3	4	7
Senility	...	...	...	1	1	2
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other forms of violence	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	7	5	12
Total deaths from all causes				55	51	106

The death rate adjusted for sex and age incidence gives a figure of 10·5 per 1,000.

This is considerably lower than the figure for the Smaller Towns of England and Wales and for England and Wales in General (11·9 and 12·4 respectively).

The number of deaths from cancer is the lowest for the last 10 years, but in a relatively small community fluctuations year by year must be expected and a reduction in the number for one year cannot be taken as evidence of falling prevalence.

The deaths assigned to heart disease have increased. This increase has been manifest for some years and is in conformity with the returns of the Country as a whole. It can be explained—in considerable part at least—by the greater number of old people in the population and by the new form of death certification.

The infantile mortality rate is lower than in the previous year but remains higher than the General rate for the country. The majority of deaths of infants were again due to congenital debility and prematurity. In a small community the rate is subject to substantial fluctuations and cannot be taken as such a reliable index of the general conditions of health as in the case of a large community.

The maternal mortality was again nil and this in conjunction with the increased birth rate gives cause for satisfaction. There were, during the year, no causes of sickness or invalidity which call for special mention. There has been no evidence of prejudicial effect upon health of environment, conditions of employment or of unemployment.

General Provision of the Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—M. J. Saunders, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.
(retired 1st October, 1937).

J. D. Dear, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(appointed 1st October, 1937).

Sanitary Inspector—H. R. A. Bolt, Cert. R.S.I.

Part-time man (R. Morgan) from Surveyor's Department to assist in disinfecting and drain testing.

The retired Medical Officer of Health was a part-time Officer. The recently appointed Medical Officer of Health holds the dual appointment of Medical Officer of Health to the Local Authority and Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council. He does not engage in private practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole-time Officer.

Health Visitor—Miss M. R. Truscott
(under the Dorset County Council).

Laboratory Facilities.

There is no laboratory in the district for the examination or analysis of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk, and foodstuffs. These examinations are carried out by arrangement with the Seamen's Hospital, London, and the Clinical Research Association. A stock of outfits for the collection of clinical material is kept at the Council Offices. These outfits can be obtained on application by medical practitioners practising in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Local Authority possesses two ambulances, one for Infectious Cases, and the other for Non-infectious and Accident Cases. The latter will accommodate two stretcher cases. Provision has been made for drivers to be available at any time of the day or night, and during public holidays. An ambulance can be obtained at any time by getting in touch with the Portland Police Station, which is in telephonic communication with the driver on duty.

The members of the Portland Division of the St. John's Ambulance Association render voluntary service in connection with the transport of non-infectious and accident cases.

Nursing in the Home.

No provision has been made by the Local Authority under this head but members of the Ladies' Home Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Association render voluntary service in cases of need.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following are available in the area :—

Child Welfare Centres.

Two are provided by the County Council, one in the Tophill district and one in the Underhill district. The Tophill Centre is situated at the Wesleyan Sunday School, and is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Fridays. The Underhill Centre is at the Congregational Sunday School, and is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Ante-natal Clinic.

One in the Tophill district, provided by the County Council. Open on Friday mornings at the Wesleyan Sunday School.

Orthopædic Clinic.

One in the Underhill district, provided by the County Council. Open on Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Portland Police Station.

A Medical Officer is in attendance at the Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics. The Orthopædic Clinic is attended by a Sister who, when necessary, arranges for cases to be seen by the Orthopædic Surgeon.

Hospitals.

There are no public or voluntary hospitals within the area, but gratuitous medical relief is afforded by the Royal Portland Dispensary, and the usual outdoor medical relief is provided by the Weymouth Area Guardians Committee. The Medical Officers of the Royal Portland Dispensary visit the sick in their homes, and from 50 to 100 patients are treated annually.

The hospitals outside the area, used by the inhabitants of the area, remain the same as in previous years.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The water supply to the Urban District is from deep wells. There are two pumping stations situated at Upwey, one at Friar Whaddon and one at the Higher Well. Only the former was used during the year.

The average daily consumption during the year was 528,807 gallons.

The supply of water to the area during 1937 has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Chlorination has been resorted to since December, 1928, owing to the occasional presence of B. Coli. in samples, especially after the onset of the wet season. This occasional contamination is considered to be purely adventitious, and not due to sewage pollution. Samples are taken at the borehole at frequent intervals during each year, and the following table shows the results of the examination of samples taken during 1937 :—

1937. Month.	QUANTITATIVE.		QUALITATIVE.			Bacteriologists' Remarks.
	Average Number of Organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates at 20° C. for three days.	Average Number of Organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates at 37.5° C. for two days.	B. Coli.	Streptococci.	Cl. Welchii Spores.	
January.	—	—	Absent	Absent	Absent	The water is quite satisfactory for drinking purposes.
March.	12 per c.c.	7 per c.c.	Present in 100 c.c.	Not found in 30 c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	The bacterial content of this water is very low and the few B. Coli found are most probably adventitious. The water may be considered safe for drinking purposes.
April.	14 per c.c.	3 per c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	do.	do.	There are no objectionable bacteria in this water and from a bacteriological point of view the water is of excellent quality.
June.	58 per c.c.	14 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	Excremental bacteria are not found in this sample. The water is quite fit for drinking purposes.
July.	32 per c.c.	7 per c.c.	Present in 25 c.c.	do.	do.	The bacterial counts are low but the sample contains some B. Coli. These are not accompanied by other excremental organisms and they occur only in small numbers. The water may be regarded as suitable for drinking purposes.
August.	30 per c.c.	9 per c.c.	Present in 100 c.c.	do.	do.	Only a very few B. Coli are present and the bacterial counts are low. The water may be regarded as fit for drinking purposes.
September.	10 per c.c.	3 per c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	do.	do.	The above result indicates freedom from excremental contamination of any kind and shows that the water is very satisfactory for drinking purposes.
October.	32 per c.c.	3 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	Excremental organisms are not found in the sample and the water is satisfactory for drinking purposes.
November. *	12 per c.c.	5 per c.c.	Present in 100 c.c.	do.	Present in 50 c.c.	There are a few excremental organisms present but it is fairly certain that they are not derived from sewage pollution. The water may be considered reasonably safe for drinking purposes.
November. *	20 per c.c.	3 per c.c.				The result is practically the same as the previous sample and the same remarks apply.
November.	9 per c.c.	4 per c.c.	Not found in 100 c.c.	do.	Not found in 100 c.c.	The bacterial count is very low and no excremental types are present. The water is quite safe for drinking purposes.
December. *	4 per c.c.	2 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	Very few bacteria are found in this sample and none of an objectionable type. It is excellent for drinking purposes.
December. *	10 per c.c.	less than 1 per c.c.	do.	do.	do.	The bacterial counts are low and no excremental types are present. This is a most excellent water for drinking.

* Samples from domestic supply taps. All other samples from borehole (prior to chlorination).

1
2
3

4

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12

The B. Coli. found in the domestic supply samples taken in November belonged to the Aerogenes Group. Washers had recently been fitted to the taps from which the samples were taken and these were probably responsible. Repeat samples taken the following month were free from B. Coli.

Chlorination will be continued while B. Coli. make an occasional appearance in the Borehole samples.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The annual underwater overhaul of the Chesil sewer was carried out as usual during 1937.

Sewers were laid during the year in connection with the Church Ope Ejector scheme.

Sewers were laid also for the new housing estate at Tilleycoombe.

The extent of new work carried out during 1937 was :—

375 yards of 6-inch sewer.

32 yards of 4-inch sewer.

25 yards of 9-inch sewer.

A survey of all the sewers in the district was commenced by the Surveyor but was not completed before the end of the year.

Rivers and Streams.

None exist in the area.

Closet Accommodation.

With few exceptions the water carriage system is of general application in the district. The closet accommodation is satisfactory. There are still a few instances of insufficiency. These are being gradually amended when possible by the provision of a separate closet for each house.

Nine buildings are drained into cesspools and eight have pail closets—these latter are isolated buildings and cottages in parts of the district where sewers are not readily available. In three instances premises are drained directly into natural fissures.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse collection and disposal followed the lines of previous years. The work is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. The emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Authority. Grounds for complaints of nuisances arising from the refuse tip persist. This matter has been fully dealt with in previous reports and unless more controlled methods of dumping can be instituted the installation of a destructor offers the only solution.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. H. R. A. Bolt) in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, snbmits the following tabular statement :—

Number and nature of inspections made during 1937.

Total number of inspections made	1,894
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Nature of inspections.

Visits to Houses, and Inspections of Nuisances, etc., in the			
course of abatement	...	...	1,049
Visits in connection with infectious diseases...		...	81
Visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	78
Visits to Milkshops ...	...	...	34
Visits to Cowsheds ...	...	...	106
Visits to Food Shops	...	...	131
Visits to Fish Frying Shops	...	...	66
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	81
Visits to Workshops	...	...	177
Visits in Connection with the Rats Order	...	...	92
Miscellaneous Visits, Service of Notices, Interviews with			
Owners of Property, House Agents, Builders, etc.	...		302

The number of Notices served during the year distinguishing Statutory from Informal Notices.

Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	4
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	201

The result of the service of such Notices.

Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	2
Informal Notices complied with ...	...	...	177
Work in hand	...	...	12
Being estimated for ...	...	...	6
Work not commenced	...	...	6

Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Inspector during 1937.

Premises cleansed and limewashed	...	...	31
Defective ceilings repaired	...	...	28
Defective walls repaired	...	...	40
Damp walls cemented	...	...	44
New sink troughs provided	...	...	27
Sink troughs renewed	...	..	7
Sink wastes trapped	...	...	41
Defective sink wastes repaired	...	...	7
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	80
Defective roofs renewed	...	...	11
Defective windows renewed or repaired	...	...	104
Windows made to open properly	...	...	16
Additional windows provided	...	...	9
Floors repaired (wood)	...	...	38
Floors repaired (cement)	...	...	22
Yards paved or drained	...	...	19
Yards repaired	...	...	21
Urinals renewed or repaired	...	...	8
Urinals cleansed	...	...	7
Door frames and doors repaired	...	...	42
Defective stairs repaired	...	...	6
Drains provided or reconstructed	...	...	18
Drains inspection chambers provided	...	...	10
Defective drains repaired	...	...	33
Gullies renewed or provided	...	...	18
Defective ventilating shafts repaired	...	...	11
Soilpipes renewed or repaired	...	...	6
Drains unstopped	...	...	132
Drains smoke tested	...	...	58
Drains water tested	...	...	35

W.C's limewashed ...	...	...	...	11
New W.C's provided	...	...	...	8
W.C's repaired or reconstructed ...	...	...	...	14
Defective pans renewed	...	...	...	29
Dirty pans cleansed ...	...	...	...	6
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	3
Sub-ventilation to floors provided	...	...	...	9
Flushing cisterns renewed or repaired	...	...	...	59
Flushing cisterns provided with water	...	...	...	2
Water supplies provided (placed inside houses)	...	...	...	8
Eavesguttering and downspouts repaired or provided	...	...	...	72
Eavesguttering and downspouts cleared	...	...	...	11
Chimneys repaired ...	...	...	...	29
Grates and boilers renewed or repaired	...	...	...	52
Quarry fencing repaired	...	...	...	3

Miscellaneous.

Accumulations of manure or refuse removed ...	...	...	21
Cases of overcrowding, new	...	...	2
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	8
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	...	1
Refuse receptacles provided or renewed	...	...	18
Rooms ventilated ...	...	...	15
Food stores provided...	...	...	6

Inspection of Places where food is prepared.

Shops and Slaughter-house inspections.

Number of visits to Food shops ...	...	...	131
Number of visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	78
Amount of meat surrendered and destroyed ...	...	...	451lbs
Number of visits to Fish and Poultry shops ...	...	...	31
Number of visits to Fried Fish shops	...	...	66
Number of visits to Hawkers' Carts, etc.	...	...	19
Other Foods destroyed—12 lbs fruit, 53 tins pork brawn, 3 pails frozen lambs livers, 4 lbs fish.			

Slaughter-houses.

Notices issued for limewashing	...	...	...	1
Notices complied with	...	...	...	1
Notices of slaughter received	...	...	...	7

Bakehouses.

Number of visits made	...	...	...	81
Number of Bakehouses found dirty (walls and ceilings)	...	...	...	3
Number of notices issued for limewashing	...	...	...	2
Number of notices issued for want of ventilation	...	...	...	0
Number of notices issued for accumulations of refuse	...	...	...	0
Number of notices issued for defects	...	...	...	3
Number of notices issued for providing sufficient Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	0
Referred to H.M. Inspector of factories	...	...	...	0
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	8

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Number of visits to Factories	...	...	...	59
Number of visits to Workshops	...	...	...	118
Number of factories	...	...	...	13
Number of Workshops and Work-places on Register	...	...	...	63
Number of Notices served	...	...	...	31
Number of Notices complied with	...	...	...	30

Disinfection.

Number of houses disinfected in connection with fevers etc.	...	...	...	23
Number of houses disinfected after Tuberculosis	...	...	...	10
Number of houses disinfected after other Diseases	...	...	...	6
Number of houses disinfested for vermin	...	...	...	16
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	0
Number of articles disinfected	...	...	...	748
Number of articles destroyed	...	...	...	59

Laboratory Work.

Disease suspected.	Specimens.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria ...	33	2	31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	2	16

Thirty-two samples of Milk were sent for examination.

Thirteen samples of Water were submitted for Bacteriological examination.

Cowsheds.

Number of cowsheds on the Register	...	...	10
Number of milkshops on the Register	...	...	6
Number of inspections made to cowsheds and dairies	...	...	105
Number of inspections made to dairies	...	...	34
Number of notices issued for breaches or defects	...	...	10
Number of notices issued for removal of manure	...	...	3
Number of notices issued for cleansing and limewashing	...	...	5
Number of notices complied with	...	...	16

Factories and Workshops.

During the year 118 workshops and workplace inspections have been made. For the most part the law relating to Factories is administered by the Home Office. Fifty-nine visits were however made to factories, these being chiefly in reference to sanitary accommodation and cleanliness.

The following tabulated statement (required by the Secretary of State) gives details of inspections, etc.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	59	6	Nil
Workshops ... (including Workshop Laundries)	98	6	Nil
Workplaces ... (other than Out- workers' premises)	20	1	Nil
Total ...	177	13	Nil

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	10	10	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	11	11	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :				
{insufficient ...	2	1	—	—
{unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—
{not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101) ...	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order 1921).				
Total ...	31	30	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108. Nil,

Shops.

Under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences, action was taken during 1937 as follows :—

Number of inspections	...	...	31
Number of defects found	...	...	5
Number of notices sent	...	...	3
Number of defects remedied	...	...	4

Smoke Abatement.

No action was required to be taken during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the district.

Eradication of bed bugs.

During the year one Council house and six other houses were found to be infested with bugs. All seven houses were promptly disinfested when the presence of bugs became known.

The methods employed for disinfestation are :—

- (1) By spraying with insecticide (Zaldecide).
- (2) By sulphur fumigation.

To ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses, all the rooms and furniture are examined before removal, and should any trace be found, bedding and other similar articles are removed for steam disinfection and furniture thoroughly sprayed with insecticide. Such precautions are carried out on the date of removal. In only one instance has there been a recurrence in a Council house.

All disinfestation work is carried out by the Local Authority.

Schools.

All the elementary schools in this district have main drainage and all are supplied with water from the Public Supply. All, with the exception of St. George's, are provided with drinking fountains but these do not invariably function efficiently.

The sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory but are adversely affected by an undue water economy in connection with the automatic flushing arrangements.

The defects reported in previous reports in regard to St. George's School have not yet been remedied.

Head Teachers continue to report suspected cases of infectious disease among children attending their schools and details are to be found elsewhere in this report under "Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other diseases."

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	339
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	689
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	23
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	63
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	16
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	156

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	124
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A.—Proceedings under section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	6
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	2

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
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(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil
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4. Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i.)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	40
	(ii.)	Number of families dwelling therein	...			60
	(iii.)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...			247½
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	2
(c)	(i.)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	8
	(ii.)	Number of persons concerned in such cases				41
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

Clearance Area.

Clearance Orders on the following areas were confirmed by the Minister of Health during 1937.

(1) Cinder Lane Clearance Area.

This area includes three houses, namely, Nos. 4, 5, and 6 Cinder Lane. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 8.

(2) Mallams No. 1. Clearance Area.

This area includes two houses, namely, Nos. 7 and 9 Mallams. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 4.

(3) Mallams No. 2. Clearance Area.

This area includes two houses, namely, No. 1 Cinder Lane and No. 2 Mallams. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 8.

(4) Chiswell No. 7 Clearance Area.

This area includes eight houses, namely, Nos. 94, 94A, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104 and 106 Chiswell. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 30.

(5) Chiswell No. 8 Clearance Area.

This area includes two houses, namely, Nos. 110 and 112 Chiswell. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 12.

(6) Artist Row Clearance Area.

This area includes thirteen houses, namely, Nos. 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 24 Artist Row. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 42.

(7) High Street Clearance Area.

This area includes three houses, namely, Nos. 13, 15 and 21 High Street. The number of persons displaced and requiring to be rehoused was 6.

Three Clearance Areas were the subjects of Local Inquiry by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health late in the year. Confirmation of the order had not been received by the end of the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

The number of Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on the Register at the end of the year amounted to 24. These comprised 10 Dairy Farms and 14 other dairy premises. During the year 106 inspections were made. It is estimated that the amount of milk produced in the district is about one-third of the quantity consumed. Two supplementary licences were granted under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923. The Council continue the practice of taking samples from dealers for the purpose of bacteriological examination, including examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Thirty-two such samples were taken during the year, and the following table shows findings of the bacteriologists.

Ordinary Milk.

No. of Sample	Name of Dealer	Age of Sample in hours	Temperature on Arrival at Lab.	Average No. of bacteria per 1 c.c.	B. Coli present in	T. B. present	Produced inside the District
1	A	26	—	73,660	—	No	Yes
2	B	26	—	9,160	—	No	Yes
3	C	10	10°c.	66,330	—	No	Yes
4	D	10	10 c.	92,330	—	No	Yes
5	E	12	9°c.	35,660	—	No	Yes
6	F	13	9°c.	17,230	—	No	Yes
7	G	28	15°c.	15,330	—	No	Yes
8	H	28	15°c.	152,660	0·001 c.c.	No	Yes
9	H	—	13 c.	35,660	—	Yes	Yes
10	I	—	13°c.	17,600	—	No	Yes
11	J	27	19°c.	395,000	—	No	Yes
12	K	—	19°c.	3,500,000	0·001 c.c.	No	No
13	K	28	19°c.	3,100,000	0·0001 c.c.	No	No
14	K	29	19°c.	1,455,000	0·001 c.c.	No	No
15	L	—	20°c.	173,660	0·01 c.c.	No	No
16	K	—	20°c.	54,330	0·01 c.c.	No	No
17	M	—	9°c.	46,330	—	No	No
18	N	—	9 c.	24,160	—	No	No
19	O	—	13°c.	1,905,000	0·0001 c.c.	No	No
20	P	14	13°c.	19,900	—	No	No
21	O	—	13°c.	26,660	—	No	No
22	O	—	13°c.	18,830	—	No	No
23	Q	—	13°c.	46,330	0·01 c.c.	No	Yes
24	D	—	13°c.	56,330	0·01 c.c.	No	Yes

Pasteurised Milk.

*1	R	—	—	182,500	—	—	No
2	R	—	—	39,000	—	—	No
*3	R	—	—	240,000	—	—	No
4	R	—	9°c.	25,000	—	—	No
5	R	—	13°c.	30,000	0·01 c.c.	No	No
6	S	—	7°c.	5,500	—	No	No
7	R	—	7°c.	9,330	—	No	No
8	T	—	7°c.	10,300	—	No	No

* These samples did not satisfy the prescribed Test.

One sample was subjected to the Phosphatase Test which was reported as having shown the milk to have been satisfactorily pasteurised.

The presence of B. Coli in such small quantities as 1/100 c.c. and less in more than one-third of the samples of ordinary milk demonstrate that the consumption of raw milk as at present produced and handled is fraught with grave danger. Inspection of the cowsheds and dairy premises in the area leads one to wonder why the bacteriological evidence of serious contamination is not even greater. Milk produced sometimes under deplorable conditions gave, on bacteriological analysis, excellent reports. That this was merely fortuitous was the only conclusion possible. The administration of the Milk and Dairies Orders will, one fears, continue to be unsatisfactory until more definite standards of general application are laid down.

Pasteurisation would seem the only safeguard at present and even then most careful supervision would be necessary. The unsatisfactory report on two samples of pasteurised milk called for investigation. One pasteurising plant was visited in company with the M.O.H. of the area in which the plant was situated and several faults in the method were demonstrable. Subsequent samples showed improvement.

It is doubtful whether the microscopical examination of milk for the Tubercle Bacillus will often be successful when the bacillus is actually present, but it is interesting to note that in one sample the bacillus was demonstrated microscopically. The matter was reported to the County Medical Officer and further investigation initiated by him led to the identification of the Cow responsible.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

All butchers' shops in the district are regularly visited, as are also hawkers' vans from where meat is sold. There is only

one slaughterhouse (registered) in the district. The amount of meat slaughtered within the area bears a very small ratio to the quantity sold here.

The instructions laid down for the guidance of Meat Inspectors, in Memo. 62—Food—have been closely followed. The lymph glands of the head and throat (retro-pharyngeal and sub-maxillary) of all bovines and pigs have been examined. The tongues of all bovines were loosened and dropped, so that the glands could be more easily incised and examined.

The slaughtering takes place on fixed days and at fixed times. If the butcher slaughters outside the fixed hours he has to give notice each time he is going to slaughter.

The various fishmongers' and greengrocers' shops and other places where food is prepared or sold were frequently visited during the year. Special attention has been directed to the cleanliness of the premises and the means of storage of food. When articles of food are submitted for inspections they are carefully examined and sorted if necessary, the unsound or unwholesome food being in all cases voluntarily surrendered by the tradesman for destruction.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	10	68	8	118	107
Number inspected ...	10	58	8	72	81
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcase condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned...	2	12	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis ...	20%	27%	Nil	2·8%	Nil
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	7%	—	—	—

Number of condemnations in shops :—

Two fore-quarters of beef.

Forty pounds of liver.

Twelve pounds of pork.

(c) Adulteration.

The following statement has been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer under this heading :—

Dear Sir,

Annual Report, 1937.
Foods and Drugs.

The following is a list of samples taken in your District during the year ended 31st December, 1937 :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>		<i>Genuine.</i>
Almonds (Ground)	1	...	Yes.
Brandy ...	1	...	„
Brawn ...	1	...	„
Caster Oil ...	1	...	„
Cheese (Cheddar)	1	...	„
Cinnamon ...	1	...	„
Dried Milk ...	1	...	„
Flour (Self-Raising)	2	...	„
Gin ...	1	...	„
Glycerine ...	1	...	„
Ground Ginger	1	...	„
Milk ...	22	...	{ 21 „ { 1 No.
Olive Oil ...	1	...	
Rhubarb Powder	1	...	„
Rum ...	1	...	„
Sausages ...	1	...	„
Seidlitz Powder	1	...	„

Action taken in adulterated samples :—

One sample of 5% deficient in fat. Seller cautioned.

Yours faithfully,

T. W. STALLYBRASS,

County Medical Officer.

To Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District Council,
Portland.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Thirty-two samples of milk were sent for bacteriological examination, including examination for presence of T.B. These examinations are carried out at the laboratories of the Clinical Research Association, and the Seamen's Hospital, London. The results of these examinations appear earlier in this report.

(e) Nutrition.

The Local Authority has not been instrumental during the year in disseminating knowledge on this subject. The inhabitants of the area are usually well nourished, and diseases of malnutrition are rare.

(f) Shell-fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district, and no action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.

Whelks, escallops and cockles are marketed locally. They are mostly derived from sea bed around the district.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during
the year 1937.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	18	13	Nil
Diphtheria	4	3	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	2	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	3	Nil	Nil
Other diseases notifiable locally	Nil	Nil	Nil

The following table shows an analysis of the total notified cases under different age groups :—

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
0—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—	—
3—	3	—	—	—	—
4—	2	—	—	—	—
5—	6	1	—	1	—
10—	4	—	—	—	—
15—	1	2	—	—	—
20—	—	1	2	—	1
35—	2	—	—	1	1
45—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	18	4	2	2	3

Scarlet Fever was of moderately severe type and showed a tendency to complications affecting the middle ear. Six of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in one family. Apart from that group the cases were mostly sporadic.

As in previous years the majority of patients suffering from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are removed to the Weymouth Borough Isolation Hospital as the home conditions are seldom suitable for isolation and nursing.

The average length of stay in hospital for Scarlet Fever (excluding one child who remained in for only 4 days) was 54 days, stay ranging, with the above exception, from 27 days to 100 days.

The average length of stay in hospital for Diphtheria (excluding one child who died on the day of admission) was 29 days.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free by the Local Authority to General Practitioners.

Active immunisation against Diphtheria has not yet been undertaken but it is hoped that this will soon be available for those who wish it. The comparative freedom from Diphtheria experienced in the district for the last two years should not be allowed to produce a false sense of security in connection with a disease capable of such a high mortality and morbidity among children and especially among school children where wide preventive measures should present least difficulty.

The following table gives the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the last 10 years. During this period there has been one death from Scarlet Fever and six from Diphtheria.

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Scarlet Fever	29	19	1	—	16	11	36	44	4	18
Diphtheria	1	23	22	5	17	17	11	26	—	4

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations.

These examinations are carried out by arrangement with Professor Hewlett, Seamen's Hospital, London. A stock of outfits for the collection of clinical material is kept at the Council Offices, which can be obtained on application by medical practitioners.

The following specimens were examined during 1937 :—

Disease suspected.	Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Diphtheria ...	2	31	33
Tuberculosis ...	2	16	18
Others ...	2	3	5
Totals ...	6	50	56

School Intimation of Disease.

The following cases of infectious or contagious disease were notified by Head Teachers during the year :—

Influenza	...	...	102
Measles	...	...	90
Colds and Sore Throats	...	...	63
Whooping Cough	...	...	55
Impetigo	...	...	15
Ringworm	...	...	10
Other conditions	...	...	16

The intimations of Influenza were practically confined to the two departments of Tophill Council School in January, and those of Colds and Sore Throats to the Methodist Infants' School, also in January.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respira- tory		Non-Res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-Res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
55	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	—	2	3	3	3	—	1

Two of the seven persons who died from Tuberculosis had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease. One of those died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in a Mental Hospital outside the district and one in a General Hospital outside the district from complications of Tuberculosis of the spine.

It was not necessary during the year to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

**Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the
Medical Officer of Health's Notification Register
at December 31st, 1937.**

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
48	18	13	31	9	8	17

